(b) if so, whether Government have made any inquiry into the circumstances leading to their escape; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Facts are being ascertained from the Government of Punjab and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Cleaning of Ganga

94. SHRI KALPNATH RAI:
SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of plans drawn up for the cleaning of river Ganga;

(b) what is the quantum of investment made for the purpose; and

(c) what progress has so far been made in the cleaning work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Studies undertaken by the Central Board for the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution indicate that urban waste constitutes the maximum pollution load on the river and out of this, the municipal waste in 27 Class-I cities (each having a population of more than one lakh) accounts for substantial portion. The following types of schemes are being executed under Ganga Action Plan in these 27 Class-I cities (6 in U.P., 4 in Bihar and 17 in West Bengal)

— Interception and diversion of waste water away from the river

— treatment of waste water with possibility of resource recovery

— Low Cost Sanitation and Biological Conservation.

(b) During the Seventh Five Year Plan, an outlay of Rs. 240 crores has been allocated for execution of schemes under Ganga Action Plan.

(c) The State Govt. have identified 259 schemes to be taken under Ganga Action Plan. Out of these, 177 schemes have been prepared at a cost of Rs. 193.83 crores and 133 schemes sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 94.41 crores. Work has started in respect of 100 schemes in 21 cities. Five schemes, two at Hardwar Rishikesh, one at Ramnagar and two at Patna have been completed at a cost of Rs. 2.57 crores.

Primary weavers societies in Madhya Pradesh

95. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) how many registered primary weavers' societies are functioning in the State of Madhya Pradesh at present;

(b) what are the details of the goods manufactured, sold and unsold by these societies during the last three year; and

(c) what assistance and incentive Government intend to provide to them especially for marketing of the goods produced by them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) There are 388 such societies.

(b) These societies are producing Janata cloth, furnishings, tassar silk cloth, dress material, dhoties, sarees, polyester cloth etc. Their production figures during the last three years are as under:—

Year	Production (in million metres)
1983-84	32.50
1984-85	36.00
1985-86	39.71

Quantum of sale of cloth and unsold stock is not available, as reported by the State Govt.

(c) Central Govt. provides assistance to the State Govt. under various Plan Schemes for strengthening share capital base of primary weavers societies, purchase/modernisation/renovation of looms, mana-

gerial, subsidy for appointment of paid secretaries, and subsidy for distribution of Janata cloth-Assistance is also given by the State Govt. to the Societies for opening of sales depots. A 20 per cent rebate on retail sales of handloom goods is offered by the Central and State Govt. on a matching basis for 30 days in a year. The State Government also undertakes publicity for propagating the sales of handloom cloth.

Minimum wages for Agricultural labourers

96. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the current minimum wages prescribed by State Government for agricultural labourers, State-wise;

(b) on what criteria these minimum wages are fixed by the State Governments and whether there is any uniform policy followed by them in this regard;

(c) whether Government are aware of large scale violation of these minimum wages in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar; and

(d) if so, what remedial measures are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) A statement giving the minimum rates of wages prescribed by State Governments for agricultural labourers is attached (See Appendix CXLI, Annexure No. 5]

(b) No specific and uniform criteria for fixing rates of minimum wages is provided in the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. Each State Govt./U.T. Administration assesses its local conditions and follows suitable criteria while fixing the minimum wages.

(c) and (d) The Sttae Governments are advised from time to time to ensure strict compliance of Minimum wages Act.

Working of National Handloom Development Corporation

97. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) when and with what objectives the National Handloom Development Corporation was constituted;

(b) how far these objectives have been achieved; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to make the Corporation more purposeful and more effective?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The Government of India have set up the National Handloom Development Corporation in February, 1983 under the Companies Act, 1956. The main objectives of the Corporation are as follows:—

(i) To supply raw materials like yarn, dyes and other inputs to the handloom weavers by supplementing the efforts of State Handloom agencies;

(ii) To augment the marketing efforts of the State handloom agencies; and

(iii) To take up developmental activities of upgrading the technology in handloom sector and for increasing productivity.

(b) (i) The Corporation has established its Regional Offices at Guwahati, Coimbatore and Bombay. It is at present supplying yarn to State handloom agencies of Maharashtra, Bihar, Kerala, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, North Eastern States and Union Territory of Pondicherry, etc. It is also supplying dyes and chemicals to several States.

(ii) In order to support the marketing effort of State handloom agencies, the Corporation has organised marketing complexes at Jaipur, Cochin and Calcutta where several state government corporations/societies have opened their showrooms.